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REPORT

50X1-HUM

CD NO.

COUNTRY Poland

DATE OF
INFORMATION 1950

SUBJECT Economic

DATE DIST. 3 May 1950

HOW
PUBLISHED Weekly newspaper

NO. OF PAGES 3

WHERE
PUBLISHED WarsawDATE
PUBLISHED 29 Jan - 12 Feb 1950

LANGUAGE Polish

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Zwiazkowiec.UNION MEMBERSHIP RISES TO OVER 4 MILLION

504,632 NEW MEMBERS IN 1949 -- Zwiazkowiec, No 6, 5 Feb 50

According to the Central Council of Trade Unions, union membership amounted to 4,024,057 as of 31 December 1949. This represents an increase of 504,632 over 1948. The increase is attributed not only to increased production, but also to the organization of new work groups.

Some weeding out of members has taken place. The Railroad Workers' Trade Union cut the number of members from 395,124 in 1948 to 375,210 in 1949. The Transportation Union decreased from 98,772 to 64,136 after eliminating taxi drivers and other independent groups. Government workers, postal workers, and workers of welfare institutions also checked on the eligibility of their members. In each of these unions, the membership is 3,000 - 4,000 members smaller.

Slight changes took place in the Local Government Union (from 256,365 to 262,585 members), Food Services (125,051 to 133,884), Health Services (85,371 to 89,438), Roads (40,571 to 41,320), Printing (29,745 to 30,672), and Petroleum (17,752 to 18,712).

The Trade Union of the Sugar Industry Workers increased its membership from 25,550 to 77,745. The Textile Workers' Trade Union increased its membership from 302,038 members in 1948 to 350,671 members in 1949. The Building Trade Union increased from 332,093 to 420,499 members. The Cooperative Workers' Trade Union increased from 168,246 to 206,251 members. The Metalworkers' Trade Union increased from 247,285 to 280,621 members. The newly organized Metallurgical Workers' Union increased its membership from 107,582 to 132,290 members. The Clothing Trade Union increased from 99,780 to 121,355 members as a result of the development and socialization of the clothing industry.

The Financial Workers' Trade Union organized a new group of banking and insurance employees totaling 61,893 members in 1949. The Trade Union of the Military Institutions increased from 19,315 members to 28,571 members. The

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newly established Artist's Union has grown from 13,000 members to an organization of 30,000 members. The Farm Workers' Union increased from 188,463 workers to 206,251. The Trade Union of Workers in the Forestry and Wood Industries obtained 35,947 new members in the course of a year. The Miner's Union obtained 8,347 new members, reflecting the expansion of employment in mining.

COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS MEET IN WARSAW -- Zwiaskowiec, No 5, 29 Jan 50

The third national convention of Post and Telecommunication Workers' Trade Union was held recently in Warsaw. The convention was attended by 249 delegates, representing 60,000 postal and telecommunications workers and 7,000 workers of the recently created State "Ruch" Colportage Enterprise. All the colportage institutions and agencies in Poland have been grouped in the enterprise.

Representatives of CRZZ (Central Council of Trade Unions) headed by its secretary, Kratko, attended the convention. The Party was represented by Guminski, a KC-PZPR delegate. Representatives from trade unions of Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, and the German Democratic Republic also attended. The International Association of Trade Unions of Communications Workers was represented by Kolar, a Czechoslovak delegate.

Ministry Szymanowski announced at the meeting that one of the main tasks of the Six-Year Plan is to expand telephone service throughout villages.

TO PLAN 1950 VACATION LEAVES -- Zwiaskowiec, No 7, 12 Feb 50

Trade Unions, in cooperation with factory administrations, are to plan 1950 vacation leaves for union members.

Each month, the union organization will prepare a list of laborers and white-collar workers scheduled for vacations. The number of persons assigned to rest homes will be in proportion to the number employed in each factory and the number of available reservations. Union organizations in the factories will assist shockworkers, efficiency experts, and innovators who have priority to secure reservations in rest homes for the summer months in the most desirable locations.

The Central Administration of Trade Unions will allocate the reservations to the different factories according to regulations. In making the allocations, the specific working conditions of each factory will be taken into consideration and preference will be given workers whose work is heavy or detrimental to health.

Factory councils and union organizations in the factory will handle the distribution of the reservations. In small factories where no union organization exists, the matter will be handled by the branch unions.

In the case of rest cures of 3-4 weeks' duration, approved on the basis of medical reports from Social Insurance Agencies, reservations will be assigned to union members at Regional and Powiat Councils. Only 2 weeks of this leave are paid leave; the balance is to be paid by the Social Insurance Agency. Workers entitled to only 8 or 14 days' leave also have the balance paid by the Social Insurance Agency.

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It is the responsibility of the Union Organizations to popularize workers' vacation homes among the workers. The factory councils and the union organizations should inform the workers about the planned vacation schedule for the rest homes, since the trade unions will be financially responsible for unused reservations.

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